

FORAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND

Mississippians feed hay 100 to 110 days each year, more than producers in any other state. Helping producers become better forage managers is key to long-term sustainability and economic impact. In an effort to improve forage efficiency, Dr. and Mrs. David Lang, Mississippi State University Plant and Soil Sciences professor, established the Forage Enhancement Fund. The fund will be used to support graduate student assistantships; seed, fertilizer and equipment; travels; and undergraduate students. The goal of projects in forage enhancement include reduced nitrogen fertilization, exclusion of weeds, removal of toxic tall fescue, and renovation of pastures without tillage.

“The goal of projects in forage enhancement include reduced nitrogen fertilization, exclusion of weeds, removal of toxic tall fescue, and renovation of pastures without tillage.”



Projects:

- Tall fescue pastures planted in Roundup Ready corn and soybeans followed by legumes into surviving tall fescue without tillage.
- Determine weed encroachment over winter and early spring by cutting and fire.
- Planting of Roundup Ready corn and Roundup Ready forage soybeans into standing glyphosate tolerant annual ryegrass.
- Productivity of forage wheat and annual ryegrass following Roundup Ready forage soybeans.
- Bermudagrass with white clover study to reduce nitrogen fertilizer and exclude weeds.
- Tall fescue with various endophyte types (endophyte free and novel toxin free) improve livestock performance compared with toxic endophyte tall fescue.
- Verify productivity of drastically disturbed land by lignite mining in Mississippi.



By investing in this work, donors will help contribute to environmental quality, better beef production through improved forage availability, and improved economic efficiency for Mississippi producers.

Mine Reclamation

Scientists also work to reclaim land used for mining through revegetation with forages, grasses and trees. Mining is a constant process of digging the coal out and putting the earth back in the hole. Reclamation is the process of restoring the land to its original or better shape once the coal has been removed.

For more information, contact:

Will Staggers, Director of Development
Box 9760
Mississippi State, MS 39762
wstaggers@foundation.msstate.edu
(662)325-2837